

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 OMB-01 EB-07 MC-02 ACDA-07

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DRAFTED BY EA:JJHELBLE/SB

APPROVED BY EA - MR. HABIB

H - MISS SWIFT

EA/K - MR. MISCH (SUB)

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O 252335Z MAY 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, KS

SUBJECT: SFRC HEARINGS FOR CONFIRMATION OF UNDER SECRETARY
DESIGNATE HABIB

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB APPEARED BEFORE SFRC FOR
CONFIRMATION HEARING MAY 25. PRESENT WERE SENATORS
SPARKMAN, CASE, SYMINGTON AND PELL. MAJORITY OF QUESTIONS
WERE ADDRESSED TO KOREAN SITUATION.

2. IN RESPONSE TO CHAIRMAN'S QUESTION ON THE FUTURE
OUTLOOK FOR KOREA, HABIB INDICATED THAT IT MOST
IMPORTANT TO LOOK FOR A PREVENTION OF OUTBREAK OF
HOSTILITIES. SECONDLY, WE LOOK FOR A CONTINUED
REDUCTION OF TENSION, AND A RESUMPTION OF THE 1971-72
NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE. UNTIL THAT DIALOGUE IS RESUMED,
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IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE THE RESOLUTION OF THE KOREAN SITUATION. THERE IS NOTHING IN THE IMMEDIATE SITUATION THAT OFFERS MUCH HOPE FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. THE CHAIRMAN ALSO ASKED ABOUT THE PROSPECT FOR COMPLETION OF THE MODERNIZATION PLAN. HABIB INDICATED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION INTENDS TO TERMINATE GRANT AID IN FY 1976, HAS ASKED FOR SUBSTANTIAL FMS IN FY 77, WILL PROBABLY ASK FOR CONTINUED FMS OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS

IN DECREASING LEVELS. ASSUMING THAT CONGRESS PROVIDES THE FUNDS REQUESTED, IN SEVERAL YEARS THE REQUIREMENT SHOULD BE FOR MODEST AMOUNTS OF FMS, PLUS COMMERCIAL SALES.

3. SENATOR CASE ASKED WHAT THE US COULD DO TO BRING ABOUT A MORE TOLERABLE REGIME IN SOUTH KOREA. HABIB SPOKE OF THE IMPORTANT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS, STATED THERE IS NO ABSOLUTE SOLUTION TO THE SITUATION, BUT THE US HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT IT DOES NOT CONDONE REPRESSION IN ANY COUNTRY. PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY WE HAVE INDICATED THAT THE US IS NOT HAPPY WITH THE INTERNAL SITUATION IN SOUTH KOREA. AS SECRETARY KISSINGER HAS SAID, THERE IS AN ELEMENT OF QUIET DIPLOMACY REQUIRED AND WE CAN LOSE OUR EFFECTIVENESS IF WE DO NOT RECOGNIZE THAT NECESSITY. HABIB INDICATED THAT HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN STRUCK BY THE FACT THAT SOUTH KOREANS, WHETHER ON THE GOVERNMENT OR ON THE OPPOSITION SIDE, DO NOT QUESTION THE BASIC US-KOREAN RELATIONSHIP. THE US HAS NOT INVOLVED ITSELF IN THE POLITICAL POWER STRUGGLE IN THE SOUTH, BUT HAS BEEN ABLE TO MAINTAIN CONSISTENTLY ITS OVERRIDING SECURITY CONCERNS ON THE PENINSULA.

4. CASE INDICATED THAT THE TIME WILL COME WHEN THE AMERICAN PEOPLE CANNOT ACCEPT SUCH SITUATIONS, AND EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT IN THE LARGER SECURITY AREA, SOME AMERICANS ARE BEGINNING TO QUESTION OUR POSITION. HE INDICATED THAT HE HIMSELF IS LEANING AGAINST ACCEPTANCE OF THE ESSENTIALITY OF OVERRIDING SECURITY IMPORTANCE OF THE KOREAN RELATIONSHIP. MR. HABIB LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RESPONDED THAT THE SENATOR'S CONCERN, WHICH HAS BEEN EXPRESSED BY OTHERS IN THE CONGRESS, THE MEDIA AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS, HAVE BEEN MADE CRYSTAL CLEAR TO THE ROKG. THESE CONCERNS ARE NOT LOST ON THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT.

5. A LONG DISCUSSION ON AN EXTENSIVE ARTICLE APPEARING IN THE MAY 25 EDITION OF THE NYT ON REV. SUN MYUNG MOON WAS INITIATED BY SENATOR SYMINGTON. HABIB INDICATED

THAT HE WAS AWARE OF SOME OF THE ALLEGATIONS WHICH APPEARED IN THE STORY, BUT THAT ESSENTIALLY THESE ARE ALLEGATIONS WHICH ARE SUBJECT TO INVESTIGATION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. HE REFUSED TO COMMENT ON THE DISPOSITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN KOREA, WHICH WAS MENTIONED IN THE NYT ARTICLE. HE ALSO INDICATED, IN RESPONSE TO SENATOR CASE'S QUESTION, THAT HE HAD

BEEN AWARE FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS OF ALLEGATIONS OF A CONNECTION BETWEEN THE ROKG AND YOSHIO KODAMA, BUT THAT HE WOULD WANT MORE PRECISE EVIDENCE BEFORE HE JUDGED THE ACCURACY OF THESE ALLEGATIONS. HABIB INDICATED THAT ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING ALLEGED KOREAN GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT IN VARIOUS INTERNAL MATTERS IN THE US ARE CUSTOMARILY REFERRED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FOR INVESTIGATION. SENATOR CASE ASKED FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS ON THE NYT ARTICLE, ON A POINT BY POINT BASIS AS TO WHAT THE DEPARTMENT KNEW ABOUT THESE ALLEGATIONS. HABIB PROMISED TO PROVIDE SAME. HE ADDED THAT IF THE REUNIFICATION CHURCH IS ACTING AS AN AGENT OF A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT WITHOUT HAVING REGISTERED AS SUCH, THAT IT WOULD OF COURSE BE A VIOLATION OF US LAW. IN RESPONSE TO THE CHAIRMAN'S REQUEST, HABIB INDICATED HE WOULD HAVE TO CHECK TO SEE WHETHER WE COULD PROVIDE THE COMMITTEE WITH A COPY OF A REPORT TO BE ELICITED FROM THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT ON THE STATUS OF ITS INVESTIGATIONS AND FINDINGS REGARDING VARIOUS ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE MOON ORGANIZATION. WE WOULD ASK JUSTICE ABOUT THOSE CHARGES WHICH MIGHT BEAR ON THE FOREIGN RELATIONS OF THE US. HABIB INDICATED THAT THE CHAIRMAN'S REQUEST, SECONDED BY SENATOR SYMINGTON, WOULD BE MET, IF THE ADMINISTRATION'S PROCEDURES DID NOT PROHIBIT IT, AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WOULD BE HANDLED UNDER THE CONFIDENTIAL TERMS WHICH SENATOR SYMINGTON HAD SUGGESTED. SISCO

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